targeted technologies which they felt might become unviable due to changed market conditions. It may be noted that projects with a significant innovation/ technology development element are inherently unpredictable with regard to their outcome.

Geographical changes due to Tsunami

3199. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tsunami pushed India 12 cms closer to Indonesia according to the Scientists of National Geographical Research Institute; and

(b) if so, what impact it would have when there is another Tsunami in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir. The data collected and analyzed from two permanent Global Positioning System (GPS) stations, one located at Sumatra namely at Medan, and the other located at Bangalore indicates decrease in distance of 12 cms.

(b) This change will have no impact in case another Tsunami occurs in the region.

Funds for women scientists

†3200. SHRIMATI KUMKUM RAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women scientists in the country do not get timely funds to carry out the research work;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of women scientists who have been provided with funds to carry out research in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 244 women scientists have been provided with funds to carry out research under the Schemes "Women Scientists Scheme—A

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.